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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the protector of nations, hallowed be Your Name. Give this day to the Members of this legislative body such self-discipline that they will choose not what they wish but what they ought. Give them also the strength of will so that they may accept the right, however difficult it is, and refuse the wrong, however attractive it may be. Lord, give them the wisdom to pray for each other, not only for those with whom they agree but also for those with whom they might disagree. Impart to them a unity of spirit as they deal with the diversity of ideas.

We pray in Your gracious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 10, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SECURING AMERICAN JOBS THROUGH EXPORTS ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move that the Senate proceed to consideration of the motion to proceed to calendar No. 396, H.R. 2072.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to calendar No. 396, H.R. 2072, a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are now on the motion to proceed to the Ex-Im bill. I hope we can pass the bill today. I haven't had an opportunity today to speak to the Republican leader, but I will do that shortly, and we will decide if there is a way forward.

I ask unanimous consent that the next hour be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on a strong bipartisan vote yesterday, the House passed a piece of commonsense, job-creating legislation—the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. We refer to it as the Ex-Im Bank legislation.

For many years this legislation has helped American companies grow and sell their products overseas, creating tens of thousands of jobs. And for years the bank has enjoyed broad bipartisan support. It passed by unanimous consent on one occasion and by voice vote on another occasion. It is the perfect example of the kinds of smart investments Congress should be making to spur job growth.

I hope the Senate will be able to quickly approve the House-passed measure today and do it by unanimous consent. I am optimistic that the 330-to-93 vote in the House yesterday will be enough to convince Senate Republicans they shouldn't hold up this legislation any longer—330 to 93. The process of reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank has taken too long. I hope we don't have to file cloture on this matter, but I will if we must.

Let me remind my colleagues that the Senate considered reauthorizing this important legislation in March, 2 months ago. Senate Republicans had an opportunity to support the measure then. Instead, all but three opposed it and the measure failed. American exporters have already waited in limbo for 2 months to see whether Republicans will come around in backing this business-friendly, job-creating measure. Businesses shouldn't have to wait

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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